

Park Board

August 3, 2005 - **Minutes**

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4:30 p.m.

Present: Suzanne Demers, Member

Edward Correia, Member

Robert Long, Member

Robert Gardner, Member

Also Present: Matthew Thomas, City Solicitor; Andre Breton, Recreation Director, and Robert Davis, HHS Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

1. Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MOTION by Suzanne Demers to accept the Minutes and waive the reading.

SECONDED: Mr. Gardner. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES

NEW BUSINESS

2. Request to use Buttonwood Park for the “Pennies in the Park” annual fundraiser on Saturday, August 20, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Bernadette Mendes, Secretary, New Bedford Host Lions Club.

Maggie Adams who resides at 35 Duke Street and is a member of the New Bedford Lions Club, made an appearance before the Board to request permission to use Hawthorne Street to stand and solicit donations.

MOTION by Mr. Gardner to accept the request. SECONDED: Mr. Correia.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Request to use Fort Taber Park for a wedding reception on Saturday April 29, 2006 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with access a few days before and the day after; Rachel Thomas, Daniel J. Higgins.

Rachel Thomas of 139 Maxfield Street, New Bedford appeared to request permission to

use Fort Taber Park for a wedding reception. The Chair asked that the record show that Attorney Thomas, City Solicitor, is related to applicant Thomas. Ms. Thomas explained that they are proposing to use the area to the right of the entrance after the Kennedy Center and, anticipating that the Board will have questions since a wedding reception like this was never done at the Park before, she was ready to answer all questions.

Attorney Thomas informed the Board that he had gone over the Special Event Application with applicant Thomas and imposed some guidelines to address issues the Board may have. Other weddings have been held at the Park in the past. Attorney Thomas described several suggestions made to the prospective couple regarding hiring a wedding planner, two police details, and the acquisition of permits, insurance and licenses. The couple's intention is to run a bus to shuttle most of the guests from the hotel where they will be staying to the wedding reception and also as a part of this, they request permission to park in one of the lots next to the beaches. There will be 315 guests at the reception, and Attorney Thomas continued that the proposed reception area will be cordoned off as well. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Ms. Demers that the Board allow this event pending approval of the Special Event permit application approval and all the paper work necessary that they have to get filled out. **SECONDED:** Mr. Correia. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**
MOTION CARRIES.

Further, Ms. Thomas requested permission to set the tent up the day before and dismantle it the day after the event. Ms. Thomas confirmed that there will be security present from the day before the event through to the day after.

4. Request to use Fort Taber Park for a Seaside Swing catered dinner and concert on Saturday, June 24, 2006 from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, Lena Rouxinol, Coordinator.

An appearance was made by Lena Rouxinol of 73 Borden Street, New Bedford MA. who described the event and stated that they expect to have 300 to 400 people. She also stated that it will be a catered event and that Cardoza's Wine and Spirit is helping to sponsor it. Ms. Rouxinol informed the Board that it's the New Bedford City Symphony Orchestra's major fundraising event for the year. Ms. Rouxinol stated that this year, the City of New Bedford provided federal transportation up to the hill where the tent is located behind Fort Taber. Ms. Rouxinol stated that they are now requesting permission to use the park again next year. She informed the Board that this year the City recommended that next year they erect the tent on Thursday and have the City staging put up on Friday. Regarding the matter of security Ms. Rouxinol informed the Board that tables and chairs are not set up until the day of the event so for the days prior there is just the tent and poles at the location

MOTION by Mr. Correia to accept the request to use Fort Taber Park for a Seaside Swing catered dinner and concert pending the paperwork. **SECONDED:** Mr. Gardner.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.

5. Request to use Brooklawn Park-Pony League Fields for baseball camp for youths ages 8-12 years during the week of August 22-26, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rick Avila and Todd Soares of Nothing But Fundamentals Baseball Camp.

Mr. Rick Avila of 10 Walsh Street, South Dartmouth, MA appeared and requested permission to use the Brooklawn Park Pony League Fields for a baseball camp for youths Ages 8-12 years in August. Mr. Avila explained his plan to have a baseball camp for 50 to 60 kids, and assured the Board that his organization will have the necessary insurance to cover said use in place. In addition, all CORI checks were due to be completed the following day.

MOTION by Ms. Demers that the Board allow the use of the Brooklawn Park-Pony League Fields for baseball camp as described pending completion of all required paperwork including CORI checks and insurance. **SECONDED:** Mr. Gardner.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.

6. Attorney Thomas noted that he has given Mr. Davis the new format for an Affidavit of Compliance that the City will use to comply with the new CORI policy, and proceeded to review it with the Board. The format is being sent electronically to Mr. Davis and the forms will be printed and made available on line. The document is also being translated into Spanish and Portuguese and will be included hereafter in a package along with the Application for Special Events, the Executive Order, and the CORI Policy itself. Beginning in September the City will make sure that a copy of the CORI Policy, the Executive Order and the Affidavit of Compliance are sent to each of the leagues.

Attorney Thomas would like to schedule a special meeting with the Park Board and invite a DSS representative from the State to discuss the City's CORI Policy and review the laws applicable to it. Board members were encouraged to choose three or four hypothetical events to discuss at that meeting when Mr. Thomas informed the Board will have more information about the law available.

Finally, Mr. Thomas asked to be put on the agenda for the next meeting in order that he may give the Board an update on the status of the Golf Course.

7. Request to use Buttonwood Park for a cookout with an evening of Native American Drumming Circle on Sunday, August 21, 2005. Leo Wells of Sacred Pathways, 285 Union Street, New Bedford.

Leo Wells of Sacred Pathways, 285 Union Street, New Bedford made an appearance to inform the Board that his organization is a new business and that they would like to set up a cookout event for about twenty-five persons for an evening of playing native American drums and wooden flutes.

Mr. Wells explained that his group would set up at the park at about 1:00 or 2:00 p.m.

and be there until about sunset or an hour after. Due to another organization already scheduled to use the park earlier that same date, Mr. Breton suggested that this group not start setting up until about 2:00 p.m. or later. Further discussion followed.

MOTION by Mr. Gardner to allow the use of Buttonwood Park for a cookout and evening of Native American Drumming Circle pending receipt of plans to remove the trash created and the caveat that actual drumming volume be kept to a minimum level. **SECONDED:** Mr. Correia. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

8. **MOTION** by Mr. Correia to take Agenda Item No. 8 and Item No. 9 out of order. **SECONDED:** Ms. Demers. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

9. Request to use Buttonwood Park for 27th Annual Spooner 10K on Sunday, November 13, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sheryl L. Briggs, Race Director of Greater New Bedford Track Club.

An appearance was made before the Board by Sheryl Briggs, 2 Sherman's Way, Marion, to request approval to hold the 27th Annual Spooner 10K at Buttonwood Park for the Greater New Bedford Track Club. She stated that the race will start at 10:00 a.m. and it would take about an hour or an hour and a half.

MOTION by Mr. Gardner that the Board approve the use of Buttonwood Park for the 27th Annual Spooner 10K Race pending a confirmation there was no conflict with the date. **SECONDED:** Mr. Correia. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

By way of further explanation, Ms. Briggs stated that the proceeds from the event will go to the local food bank and it was subsequently confirmed that the date of November 13th was available after all.

10. A late-filed request to use Fort Taber Park for a fundraising gala on October 1, 2005 sometime in the evening. William Whalen, 63 Turner Street, New Bedford, MA, Chairman of the Wamsutta District of the Narraganset Council, the Boy Scouts of America.

William Whalen, 63 Turner Street, New Bedford MA, appeared as Chairman of the Wamsutta District of the Narraganset Council, the Boys Scout of America to request the Board's consideration to allow his organization to hold a large fundraising gala in the Fall. Mr. Whalen explained that one goal was to put the scouting movement in this area more on the radar screen of the local community. This particular fundraiser would be both unique and large, taking place inside Fort Taber itself and a sum of \$24,000.00 budgeted for it. Discussion ensued and Mr. Whalen outlined many of the plans that would be in place for the event. Mr. Whalen thanked the Board for the great assistance Mr. Breton provided guiding him through the process and assured the Board that his organization was already in the process of completing a Special Event Application.

MOTION by Ms. Demers that we allow the use of Fort Taber for a Boy Scouts of

America fundraising gala on October 1, 2005, pending completion and approval of a Special Event Application for it. SECONDED: Mr. Gardner. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.

CORRESPONDENCE

11. Written Correspondence from Councillor Joseph P. Fortes, Ward Four regarding complaint of litter in Monte Park.

12. Written correspondence from Councillor Leo R. Pimental, Ward Six regarding complaint of adults using Camara Field

13. Written correspondence from Mr. John L. Lynch, Whaler Club member regarding complaint of language and actions by Whaler Golf Club staff.

MOTION by Mr. Correia that the Board receive and place all correspondence on file. SECONDED: Ms. Demers. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.

RETURN TO NEW BUSINESS

14. Request to meet and discuss Whaling City Festival items, the July 2005 event just passed, and a tentative date to repeat the event in 2006. Joe Eugenio, President, Whaling City Festival, Inc.

An appearance was made by Vincent L. Furtado of 51 Norbert Street, New Bedford, MA 02744-2117 who called the Board's attention to a letter from Joe Eugenio, President of Whaling City Festival, Inc., to Mr. Breton. Mr. Furtado explained that his purpose for being at this meeting was to discuss any issues the Board may have regarding this year's Festival and any issues that could be anticipated and dealt with for next year's festival.

Members discussed the lack of complaints about the Festival heard thus far and the good job the committee did cleaning up and controlling the crowd this year. Mr. Breton also noted he had not heard any complaints thus far, although one Member did note one complaint about heavy equipment, like tractor trailers, across the Park grounds making ruts in the grass. Mr. Furtado advised the Board that his organization tries to help by donating money back to the park to correct situations that may arise and that he would make a note of the Board's concern regarding ruts in the grass. With respect to profits from the festival, Mr. Furtado stated that the Festival provides scholarships to City students and keeps a reserve for each following year to cover expenses that have to be paid in advance of each event.

Members reminded Mr. Furtado that the Board has repeatedly sent Mr. Eugenio the same message in the past, and does so again: Mr. Eugenio and the Festival Committee should seriously look for another place to hold the Festival in the City in succeeding years and should begin the search now. Members reminded Mr. Furtado it was not the Board's responsibility to find a more appropriate location for this event, but rather its organizers'.

Mr. Furtado said that his organization has looked at the Pierce Mill property but that his organization had not yet taken any measurements. Mr. Furtado advised that his group will get the measurements of the park area from Mr. Eugenio and compare it with the area at the Pierce Mill and further, that the organizers will commit to researching another site for the event in future years.

15. Request from Betty Rivera of 97 Gold Street, New Bedford, the South End Business Association to use the gazebo at the Hazelwood Park for a candidates' rally on September 12, 2005 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Rivera appeared before the Board to ask permission to conduct a candidates' rally (not a political rally) at the Hazelwood Park. Mr. Breton reported that he was unsure whether something like this would be permissible on public property, but after checking with the Law Department, Attorney Thomas, City Solicitor, advised that he saw no problem with it.

Ms. Rivera reiterated that this would not be a political rally, rather her organization will send out invitations to all candidates who are registered starting from the Mayor to School Committee, etc., affording each the opportunity to go to the gazebo on the 12th of September and speak for five or ten minutes on whatever subject they wish. There would not be any question and answer sessions at the event and no signs will be allowed. Members asked that she make a copy of the invitation available to them. Discussion ensued, and the Members expressed their concerns for the potential length of the event, the security the organizers will need to provide and the need to complete an Application for a Special Event due to the size of the potential crowd.

MOTION by Ms. Demers that the Board allow this event as requested, pending completion and approval of a Special Event application permit. **SECONDED:** Mr. Correia. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Gardner asked that the record show that this event as approved be called a "candidates' night", not a "candidates' rally", and that the term "rally" be stricken from any flyers and advertisements for it.

OTHER

16. Next Scheduled Meeting:

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Gardner to adjourn. **SECONDED:** Ms. Demers. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:00 p.m.

A true record attest